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THE NEW SCHOOL OF WEST INDIANS.

Our remarks on the New School of West Indians have engaged the notice of the editor of the *Colonial Gazette*, who is good enough to say that they "deserve the most serious attention" of the West Indian body. After quoting at length our call for authorized professions of liberal sentiments, and something more than professions, on the part of the men of new views, he says:— "We admit without hesitation, that, with the exceptions of one colony and one individual in this country, the West Indians are as yet open to the charge here brought against them. The exceptions will be noticed presently. Meanwhile the general accusation may be stated, yet more strongly. The 'new and popular principles' of West Indian policy asserted by this journal have not been, as far as we know, publicly adopted by any number of West Indians; and as this journal is no West India organ, nor has any connexion direct or indirect with the West India interest or any West Indian colony, but takes just what course its conductors please in disregard of all influences, therefore the abolitionist organ, when addressing the West Indians, may justly call not only for 'something more than professions,' but for the professions which we have uttered in all sincerity. The West Indians as a body have yet to declare themselves in favour of carrying out emancipation to the end, by asserting the principle of freedom in all things. Until they, or a number of them sufficient to be recognized as a party, shall take this step, they must be, and ought to be, objects of suspicion with the abolitionists. It were to be wished that the organs of the powerful abolitionist party would rather encourage the West Indians to adopt 'new and popular principles,' than sneer at them and taunt them as in the above extract. It were devoutly to be prayed for, that none of the writers or speakers on the abolitionist side should be paid for their work, so as to have a pecuniary interest in maintaining the war, by which, indeed, they live; but, to say the truth, the sneers and the taunts which the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* addresses to the West Indians are by no means unmerited. The very 'professions' which should precede 'something more' have yet to come. We cannot acknowledge this, however, without repeating, that 'there are in this country, men of West Indian birth or connexion, prepared to carry out the principles of emancipation to the end, by abolishing *all* distinctions of colour, socially as well as politically, and cordially to aid in forming out of the ruins of British slavery, a West Indian nation of the negro blood.' They exist, but they yet want organization and everything else that would give them power. The supply, however, of what they thus want, depends wholly on themselves—provided they have the energy, without which the wisest are among the most useless of mankind. This must soon be determined. Our own course in West Indian politics depends wholly on the event; we will not strive for any who will not help themselves."

Passing over the injustice which we think our contemporary does us, in one or two minor points, we sincerely thank him for this passage. Most distinctly and emphatically do we assure him, and the entire West Indian body, that it would fill us with unbounded joy to know that they were prepared and determined "to carry out the principles of emancipation to the end." The object we have set before ourselves is so vast, and there is so much to be effected in every quarter of the world, that we want to have done with the West Indies, and are pining for the day when we may commit the new-born freemen to a race of planters truly paternal. We shall hail every symptom of such a state of things with unfeigned joy. In the mean time the public will not fail to appreciate the testimony which our contemporary has borne to the just and necessary character of the jealousy we have hitherto exercised. With the exception of only one colony and one man, he admits a melancholy uniformity of oppression. He tells us there are individuals of a better mind. Our reply is, let them show themselves. They will find no sincerer or firmer friends than the abolitionists of England.

We have something to say, however, as to the exceptions claimed. Little can be allowed to Trinidad, because it "has a coloured man in its council of government." There are two gentlemen of colour in the house of assembly in Jamaica, and it is far from being certain that coloured men are among the best friends of their class. As to Mr. Burnley, whose letter, at the challenge of our contemporary, we publish entire, his professions are fair, although we confess we attach much more value to those which he made before the House of Commons in 1836, than to those which he makes now as the "official agent" (not unpaid, we suppose,) of the island of Trinidad. It is quite too soon, we conceive, to speak of the results of immigration into Trinidad from the United States. The report of those who have been sent to make inquiry on the spot has not hitherto been given; so that it cannot yet be known how the project will ultimately be regarded in America. And we think it quite as doubtful how the Trinidadians will in the long run like the Americans. A shrewd West Indian in this country has been heard to say, "It won't do to have them, they are *too sharp!*"

MR. BURNLEY'S LETTER TO LORD JOHN RUSSELL.

Bryanston Square, 13th December, 1839.

MY LORD—In compliance with your lordship's desire, expressed in the interview with which I was recently honoured, I have respectfully to represent that the members of the council of government in the island of Trinidad, notwithstanding the difficulties and obstacles which have opposed them, selves since the abolition of slavery to the attainment of profitable results from free-labour, are firmly convinced, that by the aid and support of her Majesty's government, these difficulties may be easily removed, and every benefit hitherto expected from the great experiment of emancipation ultimately realized. These difficulties may, in fact, be all referred to one source, viz., a deficiency in the amount of the labouring population, arising naturally and inevitably out of the sudden transition from slavery, the most simple of all conditions, to the more complex system which prevails in a free community. The master and the labourer were formerly in juxtaposition, administering, without the necessity of intermediate aid, directly to the wants of each other. Emancipation has severed the tie which bound them—has removed them apart and left a void space between, which must be filled up by a middle class. Until, therefore, an additional population can be acquired, this middle class will necessarily be composed of drafts from the agricultural labourers, reducing immediately the amount of exportable produce, and inflicting much distress upon the planters; whose complaints are loud and echoed everywhere, giving a disastrous aspect to our first attempts, and unfortunately encouraging the long-cherished hopes of slave-owners in foreign states, that the abolition of slavery would prove the destruction of the British West Indian colonies.

The members of the council of government in Trinidad, attributing these circumstances to their natural causes, are of opinion that they furnish no reasonable ground for despondency, but, on the contrary, a stronger motive for increased exertion on their part to counteract them. Under these impressions, I was commissioned by the board, in April last, to visit the United States and some of the British provinces in North America, for the purpose of ascertaining whether any portion of the free negro population inhabiting those countries could be induced to remove to Trinidad.

In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, a small population of that class exists, which is evidently unable to contend advantageously with the rigour of the climate, and is consequently dependent upon the legislature and the community every winter for partial support. The benefit to be derived from their removal to a more congenial clime was so obvious, that the proposals made by the council in Trinidad, were cordially received by the government of Nova Scotia, and the negroes immediately invited to take advantage of the offers made in their favour. But in proportion to the discouraging difficulties which surround them, is the depression of their mental energies; and as long as they are gratuitously assisted when unable to provide for themselves, it is doubtful whether any of them will be disposed to move, even in the hope of improving their condition.

In the United States of America there are about 500,000 free persons of African descent, including numerous individuals of excellent education, Christian knowledge, respectability, and property, and, as a body, comprising all the essential elements of a moral and prosperous community. Generally speaking, they are suffering from no physical privations; and the climate, although not so congenial to them as that of the tropics, presents no difficulties which moderate prudence and forethought cannot effectually provide against. But their position as a class has long been politically and socially unjust, and is felt to be every day becoming more vexatious and intolerable. This circumstance is attributed to the persevering exertions made by the American Anti-Slavery Society in their favour.

By their means the question of "abolition" has been most vehemently discussed, and the opinions of the citizens elicited throughout the union. The result has shown that an immense majority is opposed to the measure, as well as to the admission of the free coloured population to political and social equality: whilst the powerful arguments of their opponents, not only in America but in Europe, have created a feeling of exasperation and antipathy amongst the whites towards the negro race, which is exhibited more decidedly in the north, where slavery has been long abolished, than in the south, where it still prevails; and the political laws by which, in some states, they are virtually, and in others openly disfranchised, are becoming more stringent every day.

Under these circumstances, the most intelligent of the free coloured class are of opinion, that in proportion to the continuance of this discussion will their actual position be deteriorated; that the well-meant efforts of their friends will only render their condition more galling; and that the expectation of the two races being ever allowed to co-exist in a state of social equality, will become every day more hopeless. Emigration has consequently been often contemplated by them as a means of relief. They have looked to the west, but abandoned the idea, from the certainty of being soon overtaken by the powerful tide of American colonization; and to the north, under British-Canadian protection, but the severity of the winter, which they feel to be unsuited to the constitution of their race, presented a sufficient obstacle. To colonization in Africa they will not listen for an instant, for reasons which will be subsequently noticed. These subjects were under frequent discussion, when the sudden extinction of slavery by parliament, accompanied by the strongest expressions of kindness towards the negro race from the whole population of Britain, seems to have turned their attention to the prospect of finding in our West India colonies a congenial climate, under the protection of a sympathising government.

The foregoing opinions relative to the state of the abolition question, and the future prospects of the African race in the United States, may not be in accordance with the view of the subject usually entertained in this country; but they have not been adopted without due inquiry, accompanied by the advantage of unreserved communication with the class most seriously affected by the consequences.

The result of the whole of my observations and inquiries, prosecuted for three months in the Atlantic States of the union, has impressed me with the conviction, that an abundant population of free negroes, possessing all the qualifications necessary to constitute a prosperous and moral community, is ready to emigrate from thence, and place itself under the British government in our West India colonies, provided such a policy be pursued as may insure to them political and social equality without distinction of colour. In the United States neither jealousies nor prejudices seem to oppose themselves to this step. I frankly spoke everywhere of the object of my mission; communicated openly with the negro population; addressed them in public rooms and chapels without fear of molestation; and attached my name to the invitations printed and distributed everywhere among them. The white population universally wished me success; and but one single sentiment seemed to prevail from Maine to Virginia, viz. that the two races could not exist advantageously together on terms of equality, and that policy as well as humanity would rejoice if a separation could be effected, and a happy home provided elsewhere for the free coloured population.

Of the value of such a population—active, intelligent, and grateful—no estimate can be too high, in the present condition of our colonies. The middle class, which we at present essentially require to perfect our disjointed system, would be immediately supplied by individuals capable, from education and habit, of properly fulfilling its duties. Intimately acquainted as they are with the cultivation of cotton and tobacco, for the growth of which our West India islands are in general as well adapted as the United States, nothing more would be required than the encouragement of the government to promote the production of both to any extent.

But beyond all these advantages would be the great moral effect created by the spectacle of a free, numerous negro population, enjoying under the protection of the British government, prosperity, social happiness, and equal rights. The effect of such an imposing scene would be soon to attract around it, as a nucleus, all the loose, floating coloured population at present scattered throughout the Antilles and the Gulf of Mexico, which is everywhere depressed, and generally degraded. The gradual accession of such a population would give everywhere throughout the West Indian colonies, highly gifted as they are by nature, and so admirably located for the commerce of the western continent, a stirring impulse to agricultural exertion, furnishing an extended market for our manufactures and a constant source of profitable employment for our capital. To me, my lord, this brilliant prospect appears no idle delusion. On the contrary, the longer I contemplate it the more it seems to me to require only to be willed to be brought immediately into existence. We shall then, unless all that has been asserted of the capabilities of the African race, and of the superiority of free labour, be devoid of foundation, possess the only efficacious means for the destruction of the slave-trade and the extinction of slavery. European leagues will certainly be productive of counter-leagues; violence will be resisted by violence, and a train of inconceivable evils ensue, if possible more horrible than those we now strive to arrest; whilst the production of the valuable articles of tropical growth on cheaper terms by free than slave labour, will inevitably furnish a peaceful, moral, and sure means of driving the latter out of the field. All the experience we have acquired, teaches us that this victory can only be achieved on the western continent. Extensive districts of great fertility existed in the old world, untenantied by man, when Columbus discovered America, which in general still lie waste, or partially inhabited, whilst the United States are teeming with life and happiness. It seems, therefore, reasonable to believe that the negro race is more likely to acquire in the tropical west the same advantages which their white brethren have obtained by emigration to the same continent, than by making the attempt in any other quarter. The fact which I before alluded to, of the determination of the negroes in the United States not to proceed to Africa, coupled with the history and actual condition of the American settlements on the coast, fully confirm this opinion. Societies of influential men in the United States have long been formed for the promotion of those objects. The aid of religion and philanthropy has been invoked. Large sums of money have been collected, every exertion made and every inducement held out to effect their purpose. The local governments at Liberia, Monrovia, &c. have been established on the most liberal basis. Every office, except that of governor, is filled by persons of African descent; and taxation and expenditure are placed under their own control. They entered into it at first with ardour; but find, after sufficient experience, that they cannot prosper there as colonists. With the native tribes they do not amalgamate: and, instead of imparting a portion of their own civilization, are in danger of being swamped by the mass of barbarism around them. Continually harassed by petty wars and the fear of them, commerce and agriculture remain in a lifeless state from the insecurity of capital. Even the climate does not appear to agree with them. Such is the substance of all the information sent by the negroes in those settlements to their brethren in the United States. Not a freeman, consequently, can now be induced to emigrate in that direction; and so invincible is the repugnance to returning to their father-land, that even gangs of slaves have refused their freedom on those conditions. I am, therefore, firmly persuaded that it is only in the west that slavery can ever be conquered by free negro labour, and that any British attempt to that effect in Africa will not only be productive of a costly failure, but probably of the loss of the golden opportunity now within our reach, which, if thrown away, may never be recovered.

Convinced as I am that America can supply our West India colonies with a sufficient number of labourers, it may seem inconsistent, or at least unnecessary, to urge your lordship to allow us to procure them elsewhere. But as principles of the highest importance are involved in this question, I cannot refrain from observing, that any interdict, by which the colonial governments may be prohibited from hiring labour wherever it can be procured most advantageously, will be productive of the worst moral effect. Justice and humanity, no doubt, require that proper regulations should be framed and enforced, by which emigrants may, in the first instance, be protected against fraud and misrepresentations with respect to their future prospects—that families should not be divided—that every practicable arrangement should be made to obviate privations and unnecessary dis-

comfort during the voyage; that on arrival they should be effectually secured in the enjoyment of all the stipulated benefits and advantages which tempted them to leave their native land, and be placed in every respect on an equal footing of rights and privileges with the inhabitants of the colony they have adopted. It certainly might, and would happen, that some emigrants, from miscalculation and want of judgment, would ultimately be disappointed in their expectations. But should disappointment become general from irremediable causes, it is evident, that the first news of such a result would stop the tide of emigration, even if a colonial government could be supposed so insane as to continue to expend money on the introduction of a burdensome population, for whose destitution, under the proper regulations supposed to be adopted, they would be bound to provide. Any evil consequences, therefore, which might arise, would inevitably be corrected as soon as discovered, by those natural effects which are continually at work in all the experiments which men are every day making for the improvement of their condition. But if they are attempted to be averted by a positive prohibition to enter into contracts, which both parties, after due consideration, and acting in good faith, may believe to be mutually advantageous—if her Majesty's coloured subjects in Asia or Africa are to be debarred, under the plea that they are too ignorant to understand their own interests, from doing that which is lawful to their white fellow-subjects elsewhere—such a decision would constitute an abandonment of those high principles, the stringency of which supplied our best argument for interfering with the rights of private property in the West Indies, and destroying an institution which had been encouraged and sanctioned for years by the highest authorities in the state. When we attacked slavery, we boldly proclaimed to the world that all men had an indefeasible right to the labour of their own hands, with liberty to dispose of it when and where they deemed it most advantageous; and that all men were possessed of equal natural rights, without distinction of colour or complexion, and were equally competent to judge of that which would best promote their own happiness. If these principles, my lord, solemnly invoked for the destruction of our old colonial system, are now to be discarded when appealed to in aid of the difficult task of reconstructing a new one, what hope of success can remain in the breast of a colonist? What confidence can be placed in the promises, or the legislation of the mother-country, or in the stability of the opinion of the nation? The effect will be disastrous. Instead of the courage and cheerful hope which the accomplishment of his present task requires, he will be filled with distrust and despondency, and renounce it in despair. Upon the broad principles of justice and freedom we commenced the mighty movement which has saddled the nation with a large accession of debt, and risked the prosperity of some of our most valuable colonies. And upon the same broad principles we must continue to act, if we ever expect the great experiment of free labour in the tropics to be crowned with success.

There is, however, another source from which a supply of free labour may be derived, to which I feel obliged to draw your lordship's attention. I allude to the Africans captured by our cruisers, and liberated by our courts of mixed commission. During the long period in which we have prosecuted an arduous struggle for the suppression of the slave-trade, the following facts have been brought to light.

A certain number of slaves are annually captured by the British cruisers, adjudicated by the courts of mixed commission established at the Brazils and Havanna, and the negroes found on board emancipated. These unfortunate beings, thus supposed to be made free, are immediately distributed, under the name of apprentices, amongst the resident proprietors, by whom they are worked and treated as slaves. By this proceeding the actual number of slaves imported is not in the slightest degree diminished, notwithstanding the numerous cargoes intercepted by our cruisers; while the cost to the slave-holding community is reduced in the exact amount of the whole number adjudicated, as they are distributed on terms nearly gratuitous, and the loss of the original purchase-money falls on the insurance-offices, which are openly asserted to be supported by British capital. It may be easy to clear ourselves of the charge of criminality which a direct connexion with these offices would prove, but I fear a slight consideration of the subject will convince us of the general truth of the allegation. The distribution of capital is governed by laws peculiar to itself, and is as little to be controlled by human enactments, or moral considerations, as the torrent which bursts through the broken dike and overwhelms the innocent population below. Any amount which we, the great dealers in capital, may furnish for the most legitimate purpose in a foreign land, immediately displaces and lets loose a similar amount of foreign capital, which is thus rendered available for any illicit traffic offering a high rate of profit; and every hundred pounds advanced by a London or Liverpool merchant to a sugar-planter in the Brazils, enables the latter to speculate to that amount in insurance shares, by which the slave-trade is now notoriously known to be supported.

In this way we become participants in proceedings we condemn; and any voluntary extension (some persons may say continuance) of our commercial connexion with a community obstinately bent on pursuing this traffic, cannot fail to excite suspicions of the sincerity of our conduct, which it will be difficult, if not impossible, to remove.

A further evil is engendered by the distribution of captured Africans in the foreign territories where they are emancipated. Valuable as the boon is known to be, it is naturally solicited and received by the proprietors who possess most influence in the country; thus giving to every man of political weight and power a direct personal and pecuniary interest in the continuance of a traffic which the government has bound itself, years ago, by solemn treaty to abolish. We cannot, therefore, be surprised to find that under such circumstances the treaty still remains a dead letter.

I am aware that her Majesty's government have made every effort to prevent these unfortunate results; that a clause has been inserted in our treaty with Spain, to the effect that negroes captured and liberated shall for the future be delivered over to the care of the government whose cruisers shall have made the capture; and that a similar arrangement has been proposed for the acceptance of other states. It may therefore be expected, that a large number of Africans will eventually be at the disposal of the British government, by whose cruisers alone, the captures are in general effected. The future destination of these individuals is therefore a matter of public interest, and more particularly to the inhabitants of Trinidad, from the following circumstance. About four years since, a large body of them were delivered over to us by the authorities at the Havanna, and some, if not all of the West India legislative colonies were requested by government to receive them. By all they were refused, as dangerous

to the peace of society; and were consequently sent to Trinidad; where they were found to be such manageable beings, requiring only just and kind treatment to make them useful labourers, that those who before rejected them are now disposed to consider them a valuable acquisition. Under these circumstances, the colonists of Trinidad might not be deemed unreasonable in urging a preferable claim to their services; but reflection has taught them that a planter's best hope of success, under the new system, is to be found in a strict adherence to the principles by which slavery was overthrown; and that the only just ground for a preference of this description must be derived from the superior advantages offered to the labouring class. On this principle, therefore, I beg to suggest to your lordship, that the liberated Africans shall hereafter be distributed in the colonies which offer the most advantageous terms in exchange for their services.

I am aware that, under this rule, the greater number would be located in Trinidad or Guiana; but even if this could be admitted, as a valid objection to the operation of a just rule, I cannot discover how it is possible to obtain a better result under any other arrangement. Even if they were sent in preference to the old colonies, the latter would derive no benefit from their admission; for it is from these colonies that Trinidad is at the present moment receiving an accession of labourers, who emigrate solely because they are discontented with their home wages. Any importation therefore of a new population into those colonies would necessarily lessen that rate of wages, and increase their previous discontent; and the natural consequence would inevitably be, to drive them more rapidly from their homes, until the previously civilized natives were entirely supplanted by an African race. And this result it would be found impossible to avert, but by the adoption of colonial regulations hostile to the principles of free labour.

The preceding sentiments and observations, which, I fear, I have intruded with too much prolixity upon your lordship, have a general reference to all our West India colonies. It now becomes my duty to call your lordship's attention to the splendid colony of Trinidad, which, in its natural advantages and capabilities, is in no respect depreciated in the high value which it bore in public estimation when ceded to the British crown at the peace of Amiens. Its maritime position at the mouth of the Orinoco commanding the trade of that vast river, navigable into the heart of the continent of South America, and its safe and spacious harbour, exempt from the scourge of hurricanes, are both well known to present commercial advantages of the highest order. The temperature is mild, and the climate highly salubrious for the African race; while Europeans enjoy there as much health as usually falls to their share in the tropics. Droughts are entirely unknown. No part of the surface is so mountainous as to impede cultivation, and none so low as to require dikes and canals, or any process beyond superficial draining; so that it is as well adapted for the formation of the largest estates as for a cottage system, where the population may cultivate their small farms during the season of rain, and in crop-time find ample employment at liberal wages on the neighbouring estates. Above all, the soil is of the highest fertility, fully equal to that of Cuba, Porto Rico, or the best parts of the Brazils. It is well known that, since the abolition of the British slave-trade, those countries, by the enjoyment of only one advantage from which we were excluded, yiz. that of procuring labourers at the cost of 400 dollars each, have been enabled to engross the sugar-market of Europe. There can, therefore, be little doubt of our successfully competing with them in Trinidad, when supplied with agricultural colonists at a cost not exceeding thirty dollars.* The fertile territory I have described comprises a surface of 2400 square miles, of which the crown has fortunately divested itself of only a small portion. No clergy reserves have been created; and no occupancies are possessed by individuals so extensive as to interfere with proper roads of communication, or with the establishment of an advantageous system of colonization, by which the sale of the public lands may be made to provide a sufficient fund for the introduction of labourers. In fact, few or no disturbing causes exist to impede the development of the great experiment of free labour as successfully as the most ardent philanthropist could desire.

At the present moment the introduction of an additional population would certainly not tend to decrease the rate of wages; for, by promoting competition, it would secure faithful and diligent work—encourage contracts for agricultural services during limited periods—insure the execution of every well-considered plan for the employment of capital—and give such an impulse to the prosperity of agriculture, which is now suffering from the want of these advantages, that the highest rate of wages would be cheerfully, because easily, paid. No possible influx of labourers can permanently reduce them in that colony so long as the government directly exercises the power it possesses in the sale of the public lands until the whole are exhausted, which a cultivation of sugar equal to the consumption of Europe could not effect. For this important purpose, no doubt, proper and above all fixed rules will be immediately required. I dare not, now however, intrude further upon your lordship's time by detailing these and variety of other measures essentially necessary to the proper working of our new system,—such as the establishment of hospitals, and other arrangements suitable to the relief and protection of an immigrant population; the adoption of legislative measures by which the culture of tobacco and cotton may be promoted, and those articles introduced into the British market on equal terms at least with those of foreign growth, which is not at present the case; and, lastly, the financial arrangements which will be requisite to carry the whole into successful execution.

In consideration, however, of the essential importance of these matters in connexion with our future colonial prospects, and of the duties which devolve upon me as agent of the council of government in Trinidad, I have respectfully to request that your lordship will allow me again to revert to them at an early opportunity.

I have the honour to be, your lordship's most obedient and humble servant,

WILLIAM H. BURNLEY.

To the Right Honorable Lord John Russell, &c. &c.

* Thirty dollars are the highest amount paid by the government of Trinidad for the passage of an immigrant.

The governor of St. Helena, by proclamation, cautions emigrants from the island to the Cape of Good Hope, to avoid entering into any contract until they arrive in the colony.

IMMIGRATION INTO BRITISH GUIANA.

An interesting parliamentary paper has been produced on the motion of Mr. Mackinnon, consisting of copies and extracts of correspondence between the secretary of state for the colonies and the governor of British Guiana, respecting the immigration of labourers into that colony. We extracted from it the very important despatch of Lord John Russell's inserted in our last, and shall now take some general notice of its contents.

We are here presented with the despatch of Lord Normanby, communicating the disallowance of the Guiana immigration ordinance of 1839; from which we extract the following passages. After admitting that the effect of immigration on wages was not a valid argument against immigration, his lordship says,—

But I am not so well convinced that it is just or wise to appropriate the public revenue in aid of this service. If the capitalists are anxious to enlarge their agricultural and manufacturing operations, it seems reasonable that the expense should be borne by themselves, and that the funds to which every member of society is a contributor should not, for this purpose, be diverted from their more legitimate destination.

There is undeniable justice in the principle here laid down; and it is deeply to be regretted that it has been departed from by Lord Normanby's successor in office, in the sanction now given to the immigration ordinance of Trinidad. His lordship thus satisfactorily writes concerning the liberated Africans:—

I cannot but view with serious apprehension the plan of settling an emigration agent from Guiana at the Havanna, in the Brazils, and in Sierra Leone, where the three courts of mixed commission are held. It is of the utmost importance to avoid even the appearance and imputation of this country being actuated by any selfish motives in our transactions with the Brazilian, Portuguese, and Spanish governments, on the subject of those courts; nor could her Majesty be advised to place the Africans liberated under them at the disposal of any such agent.

The Guiana ordinance manifested the tenacity with which the planters cling to the inequality of the sexes, by providing that only one of every three emigrants should be a female. On this subject we are gratified to hear Lord Normanby say, "It appears to me indispensable *** that there should be an equal number of each sex."

Governor Light's reply to this despatch is dated the 18th of September, 1839, and warns the colonial secretary of "the disappointment and excitement" which would be occasioned by it. He expresses his opinion, that the combined court would not "have refused to draw the funds necessary for the encouragement of immigration from that portion of the community which would alone derive benefit from an influx of labourers"—a measure of justice to which, certainly, they should be strictly held; but he adds, "I do not think they will relinquish their claim to seek and to introduce labourers unindentured from any part of the world in which free agents are to be found, voluntarily inclined to emigrate to British Guiana." What the planters really mean by this is, we apprehend, that they will insist on having immigration agents in Africa and in Bengal. We shall see.

Under date of the 23rd of December, the governor forwards to England a petition to the Queen on this all-absorbing subject of immigration, from the "clergy, planters, merchants, and other inhabitants" (with some exceptions, we presume,) of the colony. This document urges the necessity of "an extensive scheme of immigration;" implores her Majesty "to withdraw the restrictions at present in force against the immigration of labourers into the colony from the East Indies and elsewhere," (meaning Africa, of course); and prays sanction for the raising of a loan of £400,000 on the security of the colony. This petition, we are told, emanated from a public meeting, and is signed by 800 persons.

Now, for the matter of the loan, Governor Light thus intelligibly speaks of it in his accompanying despatch:

I beg to draw your lordship's attention to that part of the prayer of the petition which refers to the loan of £400,000, and to state that I explained to the committee my decided dissent from it.

I am fully persuaded that one-half the petitioners thought only of obtaining emigrants, and were indifferent to the loan; that the loan would be prejudicial to the general interests of the colony; that the loan would be a job in the hands of a few ironed men, who would put at least £30,000 in their pockets, if it were allowed, and that all the purposes of emigration may be answered by an annual grant.

Half-a-year before, when this money job was first broached, his Excellency strenuously opposed it, and with much clear-sightedness. In his despatch of June 26th, 1839, he thus exposes the mischievous tendency of it in another and still more important aspect:

By the ordinary supplies of ways and means, £30,000 are raised by a tax of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on produce; a tax of $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. would produce £40,000; and with that sum, supposing every emigrant to cost £20, an annual importation of 2000 emigrants might be obtained, quite sufficient for the wants and means of accommodation of the colony. At the end of ten years, 20,000 emigrants would have been added to the colony, and located only on those estates where proper accommodation had been provided, without debt or loan; whereas the proposed loan would only procure 20,000 emigrants, one-third of whom would probably have died before the end of ten years, from injudicious location, or insufficient attention, consequent on too hasty an introduction of numbers at the same time.

It is evidently this ruinous glut of labour which the planters are wanting.

These Guiana gentlemen assure us (and we fully believe them) that they "deeply deplore" the "representations, seriously affecting the character and credit of the colony and its inhabitants," which are "circulated in the mother country;" and add, what we are somewhat incredulous of, that they "court the strictest inquiry!" Their treatment of Mr. Scoble affords convincing

evidence on this point. We suspect they would prefer that Englishmen should take their word for it, that all is as it should be.

While we are on this part of the subject we may notice the memorials which West Indians in England have presented to the colonial office, "two of the principal" of which Lord John Russell has sent to the governor of Guiana, and laid on the table of parliament. One of them is a communication from Messrs. R. Semple and Co., of Liverpool, who, "having two sugar plantations in the county of Berbice," make a regular "application for 500 of the captured Africans, with their families!" The other is dated from the "West India Merchants' committee room, 16, Bishops-gate within," on the 17th of December, 1839, and is signed by fifteen gentlemen, one of whom subscribes "on behalf of the Liverpool West India Association." This document is the original of the "memorandum submitted to the consideration of Dr. Lushington," which appeared some time ago in the *Morning Chronicle*, but it lets us know some things of which we suppose prudence then dictated the concealment. The memorialists urge that "a government scheme of free immigration should immediately be put into operation, in order to keep up a *constant influx* of labourers." And after renewing their longings after "the natives of Africa and Asia," they tell us that their transportation could be affected "with due regard to the comfort of the people, by removing them in tribes, or clans, or in entire families." This is exactly a West Indian's notion of "free emigration."

We must now say a few words on the despatch of the present secretary for the colonies, to which we adverted in the commencement of this article. His lordship quotes the statement of the West India merchants, that "the deficiency in the last year's crops in Demerara alone, exclusive of Berbice, was shewn to be no less than £930,000." These gentlemen have not told us how they reckon; but the papers before us contain a short despatch from governor Light, which may advantageously be confronted with this statement.

Copy of a despatch from Governor Light to the Marquis of Normanby.
Governor's Residence, Demerara, 15th October, 1839.

My lord,—I have the honour of transmitting to your lordship the return of colonial produce shipped from this province in the third quarter of the present year. The quantity shipped of sugar is considerably less than in the corresponding quarters of 1831, 32 and 33; it is in hogsheads, 2765 less than the corresponding quarter last year, but the *price of produce has increased in proportion to the diminution of the crop.*

It is a fact, that, from the unfavourable season during a portion of the year, the canes have yielded one-third less than usual; the last quarter of the year, considering the favourable season for the last month, is likely to give a much larger return. *I shall be prepared to show, by the prices of the last twelve or fifteen years, that even supposing the exports of sugar for the year 1839, from this colony, only reach 35,000 hogsheads, the returns in money will be larger than when the produce was at its greatest extent.*

I have the honour to be, my lord,
Your lordship's most obedient humble servant,
(Signed) HENRY LIGHT.

It is not for us to say how these two statements can be made to agree.

Our especial object, however, in referring again to this despatch, is to bring out more prominently some of the admirable sentiments it contains in relation to the emancipated classes generally, and the cultivation of sugar in particular. In reference to the former, we quote with high satisfaction the following passage, as expressing the sentiments of the British government.

"It is not to be expected, that men who can subsist in comfort without hard labour will continue to devote themselves to it. The state of planter and slave left the West India colonies without a middle class; the more careful and intelligent of the emancipated negroes become petty traders. A few acres of ground will produce provisions for a family, with some surplus to sell at market, and bring home manufactured goods; the negroes who earn high wages buy or hire plots of land, and refuse to let their daily labour for hire. There is nothing in this singular or culpable. No man in this country, who has capital sufficient to keep a shop or rent a farm, will follow the plough as a day-labourer, or work from morning till night as a hand-loom weaver.

Nor, let me observe, were the damage to end here, would the British government have any cause to feel disappointment. Carrying into effect the religious and benevolent views of the nation at large, *it was their object to convert slaves into free men; to rescue their brethren of Africa from the lash of compulsory toil, and establish them as christian men on the soil where they had been transported as chattels, or beasts of burden.* On this, the principal question of all, there is, I am happy to say, no room for doubt. None of the most invertebrate opponents of our recent measures of emancipation allege that the negroes have turned robbers, or plunderers, or blood-thirsty insurgents. What appears from their statement is, that they have become shopkeepers, and petty traders, and hucksters, and small freeholders; a *BLESSED CHANGE*, which providence has enabled us to accomplish.

Lord John Russell then takes up the question of the cultivation of sugar, the maintenance of which he truly states to be *the object* of all the schemes of immigration, which he passes briefly in review. His remarks on them all are excellent, but to quote them here would be to reprint almost the entire despatch. We will only express our regret that his lordship has not fully exercised *his own judgment* on the case of Mauritius, as he has evidently done on that of British Guiana. The part of the despatch which we wish to quote, and of which we think the importance cannot be over-

NEWSPAPER, is that in which Lord John Russell treats the question of sugar cultivation in its broadest aspect.

But supposing everything to be done, which, by bounties on emigration, making captured negroes, and natural increase of population, can be

expected, it will still remain a problem whether it would be possible to maintain sugar cultivation to its former extent—for this is what is meant by the term "prosperity;" while on the other hand, the term "ruin" is used to designate, not the poverty of the people, not the want of food or raiment, not even the absence of riches or luxury, but simply the decrease of sugar cultivation.

Let me then, look at this question largely. It is stated (I take it only for illustration,) that the wages of a day-labourer are, in Guiana, 1s. 6d. per day, and in Hindostan, not more than 2d. When you should have removed to Guiana a large number of labourers, they are still to be free labourers; the soil is fertile, the climate invites to indolence; the Indian race love ease and enjoyment, at least as much as any other; you have still no certainty for your sugar crop. In the mean time, it is a mere matter of calculation to the capitalist what sugar will cost him to raise in Hindostan, to bring to England, and to clear of duty; and whether, all this done, he can compete successfully with the Demerara planter. If he can, the sugar business will rise in Bengal, and the Coolie remain at home; *the plantation will be found for the labourer, and not the labourer go to the plantation.* Changes in commerce as great as this took place when woollen manufactures came from Tuscany to England, and fabrics of silk went from the East to France.

This is looking the matter in the face, and giving the men who would fain make British Guiana supply the whole world with tropical productions an answer which we hope they will understand. We trust the enlightened principle thus laid down will never be receded from, but will be stedfastly adhered to as the rule of our West India policy.

We cannot refrain from further quoting the concluding passage of Lord John Russell's despatch, in which he has embodied sentiments which are eminently worthy of a British statesman, and to which the heart of every true Briton will loudly respond.

But in whatever degree I might be disposed to yield to the representations of the merchants and proprietors, whether in this country or in the colonies, I must enjoin upon you to bear in mind, that *the happiness of the inhabitants of the colony you are appointed to govern is the chief object.* Encourage religious instruction, let them partake of the blessings of Christianity, preserve order and internal peace, induce the African race to feel that wherever the British flag flies they have a friend and a protector, check all oppression, and watch over the impartial administration of the law. By such means our colonies in the West Indies will be made to flourish, though in a different form and a different sense from that in which the term has been hitherto used. *THE QUEEN WHOSE COMMANDS I NOW CONVEY TO YOU, LOOKS FOR HER REWARD IN THE FAITHFUL ATTACHMENT OF A MILLION OF HER PEOPLE, WHOM IT HAS BEEN HER CARE TO RENDER WORTHY OF THE BOON WHICH IT WAS THE HAPPINESS OF HER PREDECESSOR TO BE ENABLED TO GRANT, BY THE LIBERAL ASSISTANCE OF HIS PARLIAMENT, AND AMID THE JOY OF HIS SUBJECTS.*

KIDNAPPING OF INDIANS IN BRITISH GUIANA.

We had hoped before this to have been able to put our readers into possession of the facts connected with this atrocious affair; but the public press in the colony has refused to insert the particulars of the investigations had before the magistrates, which led to the indictment of one Spencer, a post-holder, and his wife, for the crime. From what we can gather, however, it would appear that the nefarious traffic in Indian slaves has been carried on in the Demerara river for years past; and that it has been mainly through the disclosures of a woman of the name of Fraser that the iniquity has been brought to light. Spencer and his wife were put on their trial at the last criminal sessions of the supreme court on seven distinct cases, but, owing to the blundering of the Attorney-General, the whole of the indictments were quashed; and we deeply regret to say, the probabilities are that the delinquents will escape the punishment they merit. From a letter which has been handed to us, dated Demerara, 24th December, 1839, we make the following extract:—"The doubtful state in which the late criminal proceedings have left the case is very likely to cause its failure; because the witnesses (Indians we suppose) brought down from the interior, a great many of whom had come from a great distance, some a five weeks journey, suffered so much from want of support whilst they were kept in attendance, and from others of them having been since cast adrift without any means of sustaining themselves, that they are not expected again to attend as crown witnesses, and will disperse before the proceedings are renewed." Nothing could be more unfortunate than such a termination of the affair, either as it respects the ends of justice, or the confidence with which it is desirable to inspire the Indians in the protection and care of the government.

In connexion with this affair we call attention to a conversation reported to have taken place in the court of policy on the 20th December last; we copy it from the Royal Gazette; "His Honour the High Sheriff laid before the court a report he had received from Mrs. Susanna Maria Fraser, respecting the shooting of an Indian in a corial, up the Demerara river.

"The GOVERNOR—I will have these reports investigated immediately.

"Mr. CROO—Would it not be a mercy to take or buy the children of the Indians when offered, and educate and civilize them? I think it would be an act of charity to rescue them from the ignorance in which they are sunk, and from the barbarities to which they are subjected.

"The GOVERNOR—If *individuals* were to do so, from motives ever so charitable, the enemies of the colony would magnify it into charges and accusations against us; but if the *colony* would undertake to protect and civilize such as might be subject to destitution and cruelty, and make a public measure of it, they



might be made useful both to the community and to themselves." After a few remarks from Mr. Cameron, the report adds, "It was understood that something is to be done."

We marvel much at the cool effrontery of this Mr. Crool in making the proposition he did, to *take* the Indian children from their parents under the plea of mercy, and to *buy* them under the pretence of charity! If the destitution of the Indians in Guiana be so great as the hon. gentleman indicates, whence does it arise? If they are subjected to barbarities, what is their nature, and who are the parties that inflict them? We have always understood that the colony is so extremely fertile, and the fruits so abundant, that destitution is unknown. Is the destitution in any way connected with the encroachments of the whites, and the uncertainty of the tenure by which the Indians hold their little plots of land on the banks of the Essequibo, and the Demerara? It is high time that the government should cause a strict inquiry to be made into the general treatment and condition of the aborigines in Guiana, and that means should be taken to locate them in parts of the colony from which they should in future in no case be dispossessed; enjoying security and protection under the British government, we have little doubt that their education and civilization might be secured.

Whilst we are on the subject we may add, that, if we do not greatly mistake, the attention of the home government has been called to the fact, that the Brazilians, whose territory borders on our own in Guiana, have frequently made incursions into different parts of the colony, and captured many of the Indians, who have thus been reduced to slavery by them; and that, very recently, they have broken up a most interesting missionary station on the Essequibo, belonging to the Church Missionary Society, and have actually turned the building appropriated to public worship into a barrack! Mr. Youde who had laboured with great success among the Maesies at the station, has been obliged to return to George-town, and his Indian flock have dispersed in all directions, leaving their habitations and cultivated lands a prey to these invaders. By some writers well acquainted with British Guiana, it is said to be 100,000 square miles in extent. Mr. Schomburgk, the enterprising and intelligent traveller, who has spent several years in exploring it, computes its size at 75,000 square miles; but if the pretensions of the Brazilians are not checked, it will soon be reduced to about 10,000 or 12,000! The boundary line between Brazils and British Guiana has not yet been determined. We sincerely trust that we shall not lose the greater part of this splendid portion of South America, through the inattention or supineness of the British government.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The communication of "A Friend to Just Laws" has been received, but the subject of it is unsuitable to our columns.

Anti-Slavery Reporter.

LONDON, APRIL 22.

THE GENERAL ANTI-SLAVERY CONFERENCE

Will commence its sittings at Freemasons' Hall, London, on the 12th of June, 1840. A book is prepared for entering the names and other particulars of the delegates who may be appointed by anti-slavery bodies, both at home and abroad. In a case of such singular interest and importance, the committee earnestly hope, and fully expect, that the friends of the cause in the United Kingdom will not be backward, either in the appointment of delegates, or in their attendance as delegates when appointed. It is particularly requested that all anti-slavery bodies will send an immediate *official notification* of the appointments which may be made by them, addressed to J. H. Tredgold, Esq., at the office of the Anti-slavery Society, 27, New Broad Street, London.

THE venerable THOMAS CLARKSON has announced his intention of being present at the approaching Anti-slavery Convention, in a letter to Mr. Sturge, in the following terms:—

"I had a hope, and still cherish it, that by nursing myself and incessant care, I might so patch myself up as to be able to attend for an hour your great meeting on the 12th of June, just to show myself as the humble originator of the abolition of slavery in this country, and as one, who, though he has kept at work in it for fifty-six years, is not only not tired of the pursuit, but that his heart now beats as warmly as ever in the cause. At the same time that I cherish such a hope, it is extremely doubtful whether I shall be alive at the time of the meeting."

WE shall esteem as a favour, information of the formation of Anti-Slavery Societies, both in England and in foreign parts, and propose to insert such intelligence from time to time in our pages. Among the most interesting of these Societies which have recently been established, are several in the West Indies, which have not

been unproductive of substantial aid to the funds of the Parent Society. The considerable sums of £100 and £50 have reached us from Jamaica, the former from the Falmouth Auxiliary, by the Rev. W. Knibb, and the latter from the St. Ann's Bay Anti-Slavery Society, by the Rev. T. F. Abbott; in addition to which, £50 has recently come to hand from the Rev. J. Haywood, of Orange Chapel, Berbice. When we reflect that the whole (as we understand,) of these very liberal remittances have been derived from persons who were lately slaves, how forcible an evidence they afford of the fitness of these persons for freedom, who, by their labour, are not only providing for their own wants and those of their families, but seeking to extend the blessing of liberty to those who are yet groaning under bondage. How cheering too is the reflection, that they for whose rights we were lately suppliants, are now our fellow-workers in the sacred cause of liberty and by their conduct, affording the strongest arguments for its universal establishment.

We have not hitherto mentioned, that an Anti-Slavery Society was formed at Rotterdam, before Mr. Alexander's departure from Holland, and we are informed that there is reason to believe that this will not long remain the only Anti-Slavery Society in that country.

Since our last we have had the satisfaction of learning, that an Anti-Slavery Society, has been formed at Boston, and a Ladies' Anti-Slavery Association, at Stoke Newington. The Stoke Newington Ladies' Association, intend circulating twelve copies of the Anti-Slavery Reporter, among the members of the committee, and in the neighbourhood. We trust that the appeal in a recent number will not be made in vain to many of our female friends, and shall be glad to hear of the formation of numerous Ladies' Associations, as well as Anti-Slavery Societies composed of those who take a more stirring, if not a more useful part in worldly affairs.

Information has been received from many places of the appointment of delegates. Friends of liberty both white and black, are about to cross the ocean for this interesting occasion. In the letter accompanying the contribution of his people from Jamaica, the Rev. T. F. Abbott, thus writes:—

"You have, I doubt not, been apprised that brother Knibb has been appointed by the brethren to attend the Anti-Slavery Convention, in June next. He proposes taking with him Edward Barrett, one of the black members of his church; and I have arranged, at his request, for Henry Beckford, one of the members of my church, to accompany him.* It will, I hope, be a glorious meeting, and be attended by results highly beneficial to the cause of truth and liberty."

* Edward Barrett and Henry Beckford are two descendants of the African race, who were formerly slaves.

THE intelligence brought by the last West India mail is far from satisfactory. In Jamaica, the results of the late session of *willing* legislation are becoming painfully manifest. Sir Charles Metcalfe, in making a tour of the island, is everywhere overwhelmed with the compliments and flatteries of the old slavery party; while the friends of freedom utter their complaints and apprehensions in loud and solemn language. We direct special attention to two extracts to be found in our paper of to-day, the one from the *Colonial Reformer*, the other from the *Baptist Herald*. Two or three trash-house fires had occurred, and the easy plan had been pursued of ascribing them to the bad feeling of the peasantry. We confidently hope the allegation is unfounded, and certainly shall not believe it till it is proved.

Barbados, also, is unsettled. The new contract law has thrown the whole island into confusion. In another page, our readers will find a painfully interesting communication from Mr. Prescod, on that subject.

THE gallant veteran, Sir Lionel Smith, having, as our readers are aware, accepted the government of the Mauritius, embarked for his destination on the 14th instant. No colony under the British crown more urgently needs the presence of an enlightened and determined governor than this, and it is just matter of congratulation to the friends of liberty, that an officer so distinguished for the best qualities has been appointed to the post. That he will have to encounter many difficulties cannot be doubted, nor that he will provoke, if his measures be just, the resentment of the planters; but we trust he will not a second time be sacrificed to it. Her Majesty's ministers would have done better to keep him at home, than to send him in the Queen's name to this den of oppression, unless they mean to sustain him firmly against any outbreak of Mauritian clamour. There is no good in prospect for this colony, unless the honest representations of such a governor are henceforward to have much more power at the colonial office, than the blandishments and intrigues of Messrs. Barclay and Irving. We insert below the valedictory letter which has been addressed to the new governor by the Anti-slavery Committee.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY SIR LIONEL SMITH, BART. &c. &c. &c.
Sir,—Although the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society have already presented their congratulations to your Excellency, on your appointment to the government of Mauritius, and expressed their confidence in the principles and the firmness of your administration, they cannot withhold a further brief communication of their sentiments, now that the time for your departure from these shores is at hand.

They scarcely need assure your Excellency, how earnestly they desire for you a safe and prosperous voyage to that distant spot, together with the perfect recovery of your health, and the long continuance of your valuable life. They trust, it is destined to prove a blessing to a colony, where so much requires to be done in order to establish among all classes the equal enjoyment of social and civil rights. Whatever hostile feelings to such a

state of things may exist in that community, or pervade the administration of justice, we are assured your Excellency will quickly discover, and firmly disown. You have been too steadfast a friend of the negro in Jamaica, to permit us to doubt your unflinching maintenance of the rights of the labouring classes, both African and Asiatic, in Mauritius. Nor will your attention, we are persuaded, be less earnestly directed to the elevation of the peasantry from that state of moral and intellectual degradation, into which they are known to have sunk, even more deeply than the same classes of our fellow-subjects in the West Indies, inasmuch, as access has not been permitted to them for the impartation of religious instruction, whether inculcated by Christian missionaries, or the conductors of schools. Your Excellency well knows how much such instruction has contributed to the best results of freedom in Jamaica, and will undoubtedly use the most strenuous endeavours to open the way for similar efforts in Mauritius, by securing not merely the theoretical, but the practical enjoyment of religious liberty, and defending from illegal and vexatious opposition the willing instruments of Christian benevolence. You have already apprized us that the difficulties are great; but they are not, they cannot be, greater than those which in other places have already in measure been overcome, and the Committee look with high expectation in this instance also, to the results of your long experience and tried firmness of mind. We believe, Sir Lionel, that a noble calling is given you, not only by an earthly sovereign, but by Divine Providence; and we earnestly hope and pray, that the King of kings may inspire you with resolution and with wisdom to perfect one of the most important changes which can ever be accomplished by man for his fellows. Accept, your Excellency, the renewed assurance of our best wishes, and of the sincere pleasure with which we shall receive all accounts of your happiness and success.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

JOHN BEAUMONT,
Chairman.

London, April 13th, 1840.

Colonial and Foreign Intelligence.

WEST INDIES.

JAMAICA.—The state of this island is extremely unsatisfactory. The following is from the *Colonial Reformer*.

Our columns this day afford the most painful evidence of the bad state of feeling which exists in the country; and taken in connexion with the report of proceedings in Trelawny, as published last week, show the stern necessity for our being up and doing. We cannot, and we will not, remain silent or quiescent, whilst we see the grim visaged demon of tyranny and oppression skulking in the shade, and ever and anon stalking abroad, and clutching his helpless victim in his malignant grasp.

But let us in the first place awaken Sir Charles Metcalfe from his pleasing, but delusive day-dream of conciliation. We begin seriously to apprehend that his Excellency is deceiving himself with regard to the actual state of the country—that he has been flattered into the belief that all is right—that by means of his prudent policy—his cautious forbearance—his diplomatic tact—together with the frankness, urbanity, and courtesy of his demeanour towards all classes, he has finally succeeded in quenching the flames of factious discord, and restoring harmony and good feeling throughout the country! If such be the impression on Sir Charles Metcalfe's mind, it becomes our duty to remove the veil from his eyes, and show him the dangerous position into which he is likely to be thrown. We would tell him that there is not the slightest amendment in the state of public feeling since he arrived—that the *apparent calm* which has prevailed for several months back has resulted from local causes, in no way connected with his administration. We would assure him that there is the same disposition to resist or defeat the generous policy of the mother country—the same determination to oppress and ill-treat the lately enfranchised population, and the same anxious desire to deprive the labourers of the feeble protection which has hitherto been afforded them.

The pro-slavery spirit, we say, is as rampant as ever—all the difference is in the means employed to accomplish its ends. Instead of thirty-nine lashes, and the chain, and the stocks, and all the other emblems of pure despotism, we have now, as the means of coercion and oppression, the infliction of enormous rents, fixed at the arbitrary will of the tyrant landlord or his unprincipled agent—doubled at his caprice, and sanctioned and enforced by the adjudication of a corrupt local magistracy! Superadded to these, we have summary ejections without law or authority—wanton destruction of the labourers produce, and divers other means of exasperating the people, and driving them into the commission of retaliative outrage. Then again we have them exposed to the operation of a variety of atrocious laws, to which Sir Charles has unfortunately given his solemn sanction, and which, bad as they are in principle, are rendered infinitely worse in practice, by the wilful perversion and misconstruction of many of their provisions. The *Petty Debt Act* and the *Tenements Bill* are, we learn, already becoming fearful instruments of oppression in various parts of the country—and when the *Vagrant Act*, the *Police Bill*, the *Registration of Fire Arms*—the *Fisheries Bill*—and the *Pound Law*, together with many others passed, and to be passed, come into full operation, we may find our rural peasantry so hemmed in and surrounded by highly penal and restrictive laws, that it will be scarcely possible for them to move to the right or to the left, without risk of infringing some or other of the enactments. This indeed seems to have been the object of the framers of these laws, for the honest purpose of keeping the people in a state of abject dependence on the caprice of their respective employers.

In the mean time, the dominant party are throwing dust in the eyes of the executive in order the more effectually to entangle him in the meshes of their net. They are literally stifling him with the empoisoned breath of their flattery, and from all we can see and hear, we begin to entertain serious apprehensions that his Excellency may become so involved in the labyrinth, that he will find it extremely difficult to extricate himself, and recover his free agency. Hence it is that we desire to arouse his Excellency's attention to the present posture of affairs. A crisis is rapidly approaching which it will require all his energy and firmness to encounter—he will be constrained to abandon his present specious but unsound scheme of conciliation, and with an unsparing and uncompromising hand to arrest

the frightful evils which now threaten the peace of the community. He will find, on the one hand, that the gentry of the country, encouraged by the concessions already made, and the impunity with which they have been allowed to practice their impositions and petty oppressions, are now beginning to assume a bolder front, and openly to trample on the rights and liberties of the people; and on the other hand, he will find that a singularly patient and forbearing peasantry, goaded to desperation by the lawless aggressions committed upon them, are beginning to yield to the influence of revengeful passions, in a manner calculated to excite the most painful feelings of anxiety and alarm.

Every succeeding post brings us intelligence still more gloomy than that of the preceding. Who that has the interests and welfare of the country at heart can read the details of oppression and injustice contained in our columns of this day, and those inserted in our paper of Saturday last, without trembling for the continuance of peace in the country? We learn from the Falmouth Post, that the trash-house on *Gates Valley Estate*, and a cane piece on Little Montpellier, in St. James', have been burnt down, and a gentleman who passed through Falmouth on Monday, had reported that "Haddington" and "Bamboo" were on fire when he left. These alarming events are said not to have originated in accident, but to have been the deliberate acts of incendiaries—resulting from bad feeling between employers and labourers on the subject of rents. Fain would we persuade ourselves that such is not the case, but we must confess, the conviction presses upon our mind with irresistible force, that the fires in question occurring under such circumstances, can scarcely be viewed in any other light.

The language of the *Baptist Herald* is still more strong. The following is an extract: "Towards the representative of her Majesty, Sir Charles Metcalfe, we feel the highest respect; but we assure him, that unless the insidious laws of the last session are repealed, the friends of liberty will have reason to mourn that ever he assumed the government of the island. That he will use all his influence to protect the deeply-injured peasantry, whenever his eyes are opened to their real condition, we most firmly believe; and if we have formed a correct opinion of his character, he will, like former governors, regret that he attempted the delusive path of conciliating the invertebrate passions of men whose avowed aim is, if possible, to crush the liberty of man. And then what can he do, without sharing the fate of his noble predecessor? The moment he becomes the succour of the oppressed, that moment every base and grovelling means will be used for his recall, and like every upright governor who has sacrificed his comfort to his duty, he will retire in disgust.

None can regret more than we do any outbreaks of the law: this in every case is deeply to be deplored, and emphatically to be denounced; but who set the example!! We answer fearlessly, the members of assembly, and the magistrates of the land. Who taught the negro to destroy property? Why the Barretts, the Smiths, the Seniors, the Raffingtons, and the Millers, magistrates of the land, some of whom are still holding that office; and should the homeless, houseless, wretched labourer, whose all is wantonly destroyed, sometimes take revenge, who can wonder? We implore them, however, never to think of thus acting; and hitherto there is no proof that they have thus acted—no proof accompanying the alarm that is sounded. It is more than possible that some white being perpetrated the outrages. As the advocates, the determined advocates of the people, we have much more right, and reason too, to charge it upon the masters, than they have upon the peasantry; and why? Why, just because they have been found guilty in courts of law (and ought to have been in many more instances) of breaking the law by the open destruction of property, and because the peasantry have not been found guilty of similar acts of violence.

THE MALTESE IMMIGRANTS. [From the *Colonial Reformer*.] We do not scruple to confess that we regard with feelings of the liveliest compassion every fresh importation of immigrants to the shores of this inhospitable country. We cannot forbear, when we hear of arrivals of these deluded persons, from exclaiming—Where are the Germans? Where are the Irish? Who considers, where? A climate unfavourable—a description of labour unsuited—a diet unknown to Europeans—the fatal facility with which a pernicious beverage can be procured—neglect, ill-treatment, and hearts broken with the disappointment of the golden visions they were led to form of this *El Dorado* have swept them off, almost to a man; and such will infallibly be the melancholy lot of all future immigrations of predial labourers in mass, until the British government interfere and take the whole control and responsibility of the undertaking on itself, and appoint its own officers for the protection of these confiding strangers. We could relate tales of the distress and misery encountered by the Germans that would make the hardest heart bleed. How many of these sold their little all at home, where, in a congenial climate, they earned by the exercise of a calling to which they were brought up, competent, if not superfluous means of existence, only to perish in this island by working under a tropical sun, at a species of labour totally new to them, and to which they could not accustom themselves!

It is with these feelings that we deplore the late arrival at Montego-Bay of 150 Maltese.—The melancholy fate of their countrymen in Trinidad fills us with the keenest apprehension on their account. As regards the Maltese, we anticipate the greatest inconvenience from the use of a diet so entirely different from that to which they are accustomed. They are a proverbially sober people, and would almost as soon drink poison as rum but a due proportion of light wine, their ordinary beverage, is said to be essential to the preservation of their health. It is proper also, that the importer of these strangers should be informed, that the ground provisions of these islands are not a suitable and wholesome description of food for them. In their own country they will not even eat the English potato. If NOT FED ON BREAD THEY WILL DIE Sir Edward Cust may write as he pleases about voluntary immigration, he knows nothing of the matter. Immigrants, whether from Africa, or India, or Europe—call them as you please, apprentices, or indentured servants—cannot be free agents, but must virtually be placed in a condition little differing from that of slavery, before the planter can derive a profitable return from their labour.

THE WAGES SYSTEM.—Some important particulars on this subject are communicated in the following extract of a letter from Jamaica dated St. Thomas in the Vale, 10th January, 1840.—"Conceiving that the following facts may serve the cause of liberty, I send them to you. Edward

Queenborough Lewis, one of the lately emancipated peasantry, earned a short time ago 10s. currency, or 6s. sterling, per day, by digging cane-holes on Swansea estate, in the parish of St. John. In the days of slavery, the apportioned work of a labourer was sixty, eighty, or one hundred cane-holes per day, according to the soil; here we have an instance of two hundred being dug in a state of freedom. The reason is, however, obvious. Reward is a more powerful stimulant than the cart-whip. After working on Swansea estate, Edward and many others were employed on Water-Mount estate in the same parish, on the same work. Some earned 10s., some 6s. 8d., and others 5s. 10d. per day. The overseer paid them well the first two weeks, but afterwards disputed their charge; and, on one Saturday, presented £6. to be distributed among forty people, to whom he was indebted more than £100. They refused to receive the £6., and applied to me for advice. I made out a few of their accounts, and directed them to warrant the overseer if he refused to pay. I have not yet heard of the result of the affair. Cases of this sort are very common in Jamaica, and are one of the evils which demand immediate redress, and should have occupied the attention of the legislature during the past session, instead of squatting and vagrant bills. It is my opinion that half the ill-feelings between the labouring population and overseers and attorneys, arise from the detention of their hard-earned money. A law by which the labourer may compel the payment of wages, &c. above £10., instead of by action in the grand court, is essentially necessary at the present time, and should engage the attention of the friends of liberty in the mother-country. My son told me, that, in conversation with a gentleman a short time since, he was informed that many labourers on estates in the parish of St. Mary, were owed £30. and £40. by the proprietors; but, from the want of means to institute actions in the grand court, could not obtain payment. The gentleman just alluded to mentioned a case, in which a labourer engaged with an overseer to build a lime-kiln for £40. currency. The contract was performed, but the overseer refused to pay, though two respectable persons testified as to the proper performance of the work. But, if the labourers even possessed the means of instituting actions, they would in the end gain little, or, perhaps, lose a great deal, in consequence of the delay connected with the proceedings. By the 5 Will. IV, chap. 2, the master can, by a very summary process, deprive the labourer of his earnings to the amount of £100. for breach of contract; but if the labourer would obtain his hard-earned salary, he must, if it be above £10. spend £20. in a law-suit, and in all probability have to wait a whole year or more for the adjudication of his claim. Often the labourers are beaten in the most shameful manner, when they apply for the payment of their accounts. A young man named Needham was thus treated by a Mrs. Sanquineti, a few months ago. Needham complained to the justices at Rodney-hall, in this parish, but his case has never been adjudicated. James Brown, a labourer on Rose-hall estate, in this parish, informed me a few days ago that Mr. Sutherland, the overseer, owed him 3s. 4d. for two day's labour; that he sent his daughter for the amount, but Mr. S. refused to pay, saying he did not owe him anything. Brown then applied himself to Mr. S. for payment, a dispute ensued, when Sutherland kicked, thumped and beat Brown with a stick. Brown complained to Mr. Special Justice Jackson, who directed Sutherland to attend the court in two week's time, and answer to the charge. When the case came on for hearing, Mr. Justice Jackson was absent, but another magistrate (whose name Brown does not know) presided, who, in the face of the clearest evidence in proof of Sutherland's guilt, dismissed the complaint, saying, that if Brown had not provoked Mr. Sutherland, he would not have struck him; and that if Sutherland, instead of striking Brown, had complained to the magistrates, he should have been sent to the house of correction. What an illustration of Jamaica justice!"

BARBADOS.—This island is again in a disturbed state. The reason why, is explained in the following extract of a letter from Mr. Prescod to Mr. Sturge, dated Dominica, February 13th, 1840.

"I hinted in my last of the 11th, that Barbados is again thrown into confusion by the oppressive contract law of Sir Evan and the planters. The labourers are not in a condition to render any contract law a prudent or advisable measure however equitable in theory, it will be perverted to their detriment in practice. They are too much at the power, the savage will of the master, to have any option in the matter, if he wishes for a contract. The law may profess to provide only for voluntary contracts, but the poor wretches are not in a condition to maintain a will of their own in opposition to the will of the planter, who coerces them with the terrible power of ejectment at a moment's warning.

"I foresaw the evil about to be brought upon the country, already groaning under the effects of severe drought, and pointed it out, and forewarned the country against it, in reviewing, in the *Liberal* of the 27th of November, the governor's silly recommendation of a contract law in his speech to the legislature on the preceding day. He and his friends, I suppose, are now convinced of their folly. I have written to Barbados for particular information on this subject, and shall forward it to you by the first opportunity after I have got it. For heaven's sake, bear in mind and impress it on the minds of our friends, that, in framing laws to benefit the colonies, the peculiar condition of the people must be considered and provided for. They are yet in a sort of civil bondage on estates, especially in Barbados, with only the privilege to some trifling extent of changing masters. This may be a capital state of things for the planter, at least, in his opinion, but it is not the best possible for the labourers; and therefore the law should aim to provide checks to the improper exercise of the master's power, not to strengthen and encourage it. Give the labourer his cottage at a fair rent, allow him to dispose of his labour as he pleases, just as the planter disposes of his sugar, and then, if you like, let us have an equitable law to regulate contracts voluntarily entered into (for they will only then be voluntarily entered into,) by both the contracting parties. At present the planter proposes the contract, and the labourer must either agree to it on the planter's terms, or be thrown into the highway with his wife and children and household goods. Where exists the voluntary principle in this?"

To Mr. Prescod's statement, may be added the following extract from the letter of a correspondent in the *Barbados Liberal*. "The good results of the Contract Act may be seen by its promoters and friends, on visiting the highways leading to very many plantations, where those who have refused to enter into contract with their employers have been turned, bag and baggage."

DOMINICA.—[From the *Dominican*.] It affords us much gratification to record that amongst the numerous good actions of that philanthropic minister of the gospel, the Rev. Joseph John Gurney, during his short stay in this island he did not fail to visit our prison, from which he procured the release of a man named Titus Garraway, by paying the sum of £12. 0s. 3d. currency, being the amount of court and jail fees incurred by him upon being convicted about three months ago, at the grand sessions of the peace, of assaulting a police officer, and fined 20s. currency. The case of this unfortunate person, along with that of others similarly situated, had been, with Governor MacPhail's known humanity, lately submitted by his Excellency to the consideration of the council and assembly. Titus, we think, will long remember the providential arrival here of friend Gurney.

ST. LUCIA.—[Extract of a letter from Mr. Prescod, of Barbados, to Mr. Sturge, dated Castries, February 11, 1840.]

The island seems distracted with party quarrels, but, generally, I learn that the labouring population are doing well, and things proceeding much better than the anti-freedom party would have us believe. His Excellency Colonel Everard, administering the government, assured me yesterday in conversation, that he did not see that the planters had the smallest ground of complaint because of emancipation. I have heard the same from other credible quarters, and, in one or two instances, from planters themselves. The rent system has been adopted here by Mr. Todd, of the Union estate, with complete success.

TRINIDAD.—[Extract of a letter from Mr. Prescod, of Barbados, to Mr. Sturge, dated St. Lucia, February 11, 1840.]

In the Naparima district, which I visited, in company with our friend Dickinson, and an intelligent young friend from Port of Spain, I had opportunities of conversing with several respectable proprietors on their estates. I thought it best to confine my inquiries, both there, and with planters elsewhere in the island, to the two following points:—The general conduct of the labourer since emancipation; and the effects of emancipation on the value of property and the interests generally of the planter. On both these points the information obtained, from planters themselves be it remembered, was most satisfactory, and afforded me high gratification. Everywhere was I told, by every planter with whom I conversed that, with here and there an individual exception, the labourers were conducting themselves with propriety, and were working well;—not doing all the work that the planter in many cases desired, but quite as much as during slavery and the apprenticeship—in many instances more. The few exceptions to good conduct were on all hands attributed to want of education, which is most deplorably neglected. On this head I shall have to write more fully in a subsequent letter; and shall merely observe here, that one of the greatest benefits that Britain can just now confer upon her colonies in the West Indies, is a good system of education on *liberal* principles. The thing miscalled education, now in operation, is the meanest and most insignificant imaginable. A better and general system is absolutely necessary to the development of the best features of emancipation.

As regards the effects of emancipation on the interests of the planters,—strange and inconsistent as it must appear, when considered in connexion with their public apprehensions of ruin,—I spoke not with a single planter in Trinidad, but he assured me that his estate, or the estate under his charge, (as the case might be,) is more valuable now than ever it was; and many respectable planters affirmed the same of property generally, and furnished cases in point. I found, on their statements, that the estimated increase of value rises from ten to twenty per cent. Mr. Alexander Fraser, joint proprietor of the Wellington estate, which he manages, in South Naparima, informed me, that late in 1837 that estate sold, at a fair valuation, for 40,000 dollars; early last year his partner and himself bought it for 50,000 dollars; and now, were it brought into market, he should expect, and would get 60,000 dollars for it. Dr. Philip, member of council, and a wealthy and highly respectable and intelligent planter of the same district, told me his estate is worth 10,000 dollars, about 20 per cent., more now than previously to emancipation. In short, the planters one and all agree that emancipation has done them a good instead of an evil. It is far better, they say, to work their estates by free labour than by slave-labour, even where they contend that the latter is the cheaper of the two. A few, however, maintain that it is not cheaper to work by slave-labour than by free. I had no means of deciding between these conflicting opinions. Their existence, however, proves that the question is not already decided (as alarmists here and in Britain would have us believe) unfavourably to emancipation.

Those planters who maintain that free-labour is not as cheap as slave-labour, account for the increased value of property consequent on emancipation from the increased security given to property, and because free-labour is more equitable in its working, and affords the advantage of calculating before hand the probable return which the invested capital will give. In the opinion of these, then, it amounts to this,—that the profit to the proprietor from cultivation by free-labour, is not so great as by slave-labour, but it is *certain* and more secure. The difference of cost, even in the opinion of these, is by no means so great as would induce a sensible man, with an eye to his worldly interests, to prefer slave-labour to free. I met not a planter in Trinidad who did not give a decided preference to the latter.

The wages on sugar estates in Naparima, are good, but not so much as the planter could afford to give, or as the labourer, from the productive value of his labour, would be justified in demanding. The money rate is about 2s. sterling, with certain allowances (for this vicious system is universal in the colony,) and lodging, equivalent to about 1s. 6d. more per day. I could not learn that the rent system had been introduced, even by way of experiment, on a single estate in the island; yet, there can be little doubt on minds not completely swayed by old habits, that it would work beneficially for proprietor and labourer. The latter, indeed, cannot improve morally without it. I used my best arguments to induce one or two liberal proprietors to give it a fair trial, but without success. I have, however, some hope, that Dr. Philip will bring his powerful mind and liberal principles to bear on the subject; and, if he do, the advantages to result to proprietor and labourer cannot escape him, and his example would soon be followed by others, when they shall have perceived the good effects. You are, no doubt aware, that the Dr. Philip, of whom I here speak, is a coloured gentleman, and brother to that Dr. Philip who, some years ago, exposed the

murderous policy of the Trinidad government under Woodford, in a work entitled, "The Free Mulatto." The present doctor wants only his brother's energy of character, to emancipate his class from the vile thralldom in which they are yet held by the handful of whites—chiefly merchant clerks, and other adventurers of the same grade, from Liverpool and Glasgow, who have picked up affluence and respectability on this side the Atlantic. With such a man as Dr. St. Luce Philip at their head, the struggle of the coloured classes—the people of the colony, for their proper political stand would be short-lived, and their victory complete.

I have said that, great as appear the wages now given by the planter of Naparima, I learnt that they are not the same as in other parts of the island; they are not so much as he could afford, and the labourer would be justified in demanding. Those whom you have seen descanting so lugubriously on the high rate of wages paid in this, and some other colonies similarly circumstanced, do not tell, and it is charity to hope that they do not know or have forgotten, the productiveness of the labour so purchased. Considered in connexion with this, the 3s. 6d. or 4s. sterling of the Trinidad planter has no greater effect on his profits, than the 1s. of his Barbados competitor in the sugar market. One labourer in Trinidad can, from the difference of soil, do the work of five in Barbados, and the first outlay for land and buildings in the one is less than half what it is in the other. By an estimate furnished us by Dr. Philip, I find, that, with judicious management, and at the present rate of wages, a clear profit of 25 per cent. may be obtained on capital invested in sugar production in Naparima, when the price of sugar is 60s. in the British market; and it must be observed, that the doctor's estimate of the first outlay for land, buildings, and stock, greatly exceeded estimates which I had seen from other sources.

The chief, almost the only, complaint of the Trinidad planter is, the deficiency of labour, and this the more avaricious and inconsiderate, without much reason, charge to the indolence of the liberated negroes, and uncandidly endeavour, by their clamours, to make out a case against emancipation, merely in the hope that they will be pitied and assisted by government in some of their favourite schemes of forced immigration. I say, without much reason they complain of their labourers; for, although it is not possible that several instances of downright indolence should not exist in a labouring population of over 20,000 of both sexes and all ages, I find on examination, that the planter makes his wants and his interests, not the wants and abilities of the labourer, the criterion by which, to rate the industry of the latter. There is quite as much labour given by the liberated negroes now for wages, as was wrung out of them by the cart-whip in slavery, and by imprisonment during the apprenticeship. I go further, and say that the planter now generally gets more labour. The crop of last year, in spite of gloomy forebodings and confident predictions (vide the newspapers of that date,) of a deficiency of 5000 hogsheads, has exceeded the crop of the preceding year by two or three hundred hogsheads, which, for want of vessels to ship, are turned over to this year's exports. The present crop, I am told, with a good season, will at least equal in amount the last.

What then do the Trinidad planters mean, by "deficiency of labour," "impending ruin," and the like? They are gloating over the rich virgin lands around them, and longing to turn them to profit. They wish to extend their cultivation. Emancipation has inspired them with hopes, which the wildest imagination might not have entertained in slavery. They see wealth at their feet, and want only hands to gather it up. This is the whole secret of their lamentations about "deficient labour," and their clamour for "immigration on a large scale." They mean, not that the land at present in cultivation will be thrown out for want of labour, or that it will only be cultivated at an expense which, will not leave them a fair profit on their capital. Neither of these. They mean, that other land, now lying waste before them cannot to the extent they desire, be taken into cultivation, without producing among the proprietors, such a competition for labour as would reduce their profits nearer to a level with the profits arising from capital employed in other business. This, I hesitate not to say, is the ruin so clamorously apprehended by the Trinidad planter, and those who find it their interest to hold with him, and support his views. Their insincerity is likely, they now begin to see, to do them injury. By declaring, as they have done, that, without an immense augmentation of labour by immigration, they cannot supply the full quantity of sugar, not more than half the quantity, at furthest, required for British consumption, they tempt the government to remove the restrictions on foreign sugar to make up the deficiency. To suppose, that the British people will go without sugar, or buy it 30 or 40 per cent. dearer than at present for their sake, is in keeping with the known character of the West India planter. Nor must you be surprised at the folly which could overlook this simple consequence of their bad policy to obtain additional labour. They seldom see a consequence beyond the limits of their boiling-house.

UNITED STATES.

Two DELEGATES have been appointed by the free-coloured population of Baltimore and Maryland to proceed to British Guiana, to ascertain whether it possesses such advantages as to justify the free-coloured population migrating thither; and the board of the Immigration Society have authorized these delegates to proceed to British Guiana and Trinidad, for the purposes they contemplate.

FRANCE.

The Society for the Abolition of Slavery, held a meeting yesterday, M. H. Passy, in the chair. A short report was read on the condition of the Mauritius; and several communications were made as to the state of various French and English colonies. A conversation ensued concerning the intentions of the present cabinet upon the slavery question, and it was mentioned that government would institute a special committee to draw up a bill, which should be ready for presentation next session. The slavery committee of the chamber of deputies held a sitting the day before yesterday, and heard the evidence of M. Jules Lechevalier.—*Galigani.*

IN BRITISH GUIANA there have been established in the rural districts since the 1st of August, 1838, 74 new stores for the sale of dry goods, &c., and 267 free settlers' cottages, almost exclusively from the emancipated class.—*Parl. paper.*

Advertisement.

PERSECUTION IN JAMAICA.

THE attention of the Friends of Religion, Justice, and Freedom, is earnestly solicited to certain iniquitous proceedings which have recently taken place in Jamaica, which, if not promptly and vigorously met, threaten not only the ruin of those against whom they have been directed, but the destruction of that liberty which has been purchased for the Negro at so costly a sacrifice.

At the Assizes for the county of Cornwall, held at Montego Bay in July last, various actions were brought, under different pretexts, against several well-known friends of the labouring classes in that Island. Amongst the victims of these proceedings were a Clergyman of the Church of England, a Missionary belonging to the Baptist Society, and some of the magistrates specially appointed for the protection of the emancipated population, in each of which cases the jurors decided against the party accused, and in most of them with enormous damages, under circumstances which can leave no doubt that the design is to ruin those whose hatred of oppression has rendered them obnoxious to the enemies of freedom.

At the same Assizes, a criminal information, filed by order of the Court against the Editor of a local newspaper for grossly defaming a Baptist minister, was tried, and the jury, without the formality of retiring to consider their verdict, immediately acquitted the defendant, contrary to the express direction of the Chief Justice, and the plaintiff was left with his injuries unredressed, and a heavy amount of legal expenses to pay.

These violent and reckless proceedings appear to have produced a greater excitement than has been known in the island since the insurrection in 1832.

The Negroes behave with admirable moderation, but they feel most deeply at the prospect of their best friends and protectors, of whom it was once sought to deprive them by brute force, now falling victims to the more specious, but not less effectual weapons of oppression, in the form of legal proceedings.

The juries on these occasions were almost wholly composed of persons belonging to a class who have uniformly and bitterly opposed the abolition of slavery, and the friends of the Anti-Slavery cause, and there is no hope whatever of obtaining justice for the parties against whom these verdicts have been given, but by an appeal to the Court of Error in the Island, and, if requisite, to the ultimate tribunal in this country, which will involve heavy legal expenses in addition to those already incurred.

To meet these expenses, an earnest appeal is now made to the liberality of the British public.

The following gentlemen have been appointed a Committee, with power to add to their number, to lay the particulars of these atrocious proceedings fully before the public, to promote subscriptions for the purposes contemplated, and for similar cases of oppression, and to superintend the appropriation of the funds collected.

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27, New Broad Street.

THE BARBADOS EMIGRATION ACT has been disallowed; the government asserting "the propriety of leaving the labourers absolutely free to take their labour to the best market."

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